

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, JA

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN TARIFF QUOTA ACTION ON TEXTILES -
BACKGROUND INFO

TOKYO FOR JURICH

GENEVA FOR PHELAN

1. IN EARLY DECEMBER, AUSTRALIA ANNOUNCED ESTABLISHMENT OF
TARIFF QUOTA MEASURES ON IMPORTS OF ACRYLIC APPAREL YARNS,
KNITTED AND CROCHETED FABRICS OF MAN-MADE FIBER, AND TERRY
TOWELS. THIS WAS FOLLOWED SEVERAL DAYS LATER BY SIMILAR
TARIFF QUOTA ACTION ON RAW AND PROCESSED POLYAMID

AND POLYESTER YARNS, WOVEN MAN-MADE FABRICS OTHER THAN
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POLYOLEFIN FABRICS, AND BRASSIERES.

2. IN MID-JANUARY, GOA ANNOUNCED TARIFF QUOTAS ON MEN'S AND BOYS' SHIRTS AND WOVEN PAJAMAS. IN EARLY MARCH, TARIFF QUOTAS WERE PLACED ON MEN'S AND BOYS' SUITS, COATS, AND WALKING SHORTS, WOMEN'S, INFANTS, AND GIRLS OUTER-GARMENTS, DRESSING GOWNS, SWIMWEAR, AND BABY DIAPERS. AT SAME TIME, GOA ANNOUNCED IT WAS STUDYING QUOTE WHETHER URGENT ACTION UNQUOTE (READ TARIFF QUOTAS) WAS NEEDED ON

PLANAR FORMS OF VINYL, PLANAR FORMS OF ACRYLICS, BONDED FIBER FABRICS CONTAINING PLASTICS, AND TEXTILE FABRIC OVER 30 CM IN WIDTH WITH PLASTIC ADDITION OF POLYURETHANE, POLYMERS, OR COPOLYMERS (THE PVC QUESTION).

3. IN ALL CASES WHERE TARIFF QUOTAS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED BY GOA, IT IS OUR VIEW THAT TARIFFS ARE, IN EFFECT, PROHIBITIVE. IN ADDITION, SOME, IF NOT ALL, QUOTAS CONSTITUTE ROLLBACKS TO EARLIER IMPORT LEVELS.

4. MORE IMPORTANTLY, OUR VIEW IS THAT THE GOA ACTIONS VIOLATE BOTH SPIRIT AND LETTER OF MFA. GOA HAS ATTEMPTED TO CLAIM THAT THE TARIFF QUOTAS ARE TARIFF ACTION ACTIONS AND, HENCE, NOT COVERED BY MFA. OUR VIEW IS THAT THE PROHIBITIVENESS OF THE TARIFF AND THE SMALL SIZE OF THE VARIOUS QUOTAS CONSTITUTE QUANTITATIVE RESTRAINTS WITHIN THE MEANING OF FOURTH PARA OF PREAMBLE, SECOND PARA OF ARTICLE I, AND ESPECIALLY, FIRST PARA OF ARTICLE 9 OF MFA.

5. EMBASSY IS ADDRESSEE OF MISSION GENEVA'S 1681 AND 1697 WHICH YOU SHOULD REVIEW PRIOR TO YOUR TALKS WITH GOJ OFFICIALS. WE ARE REPEATING VIA SEPTTEL GENEVA'S 1784 RE MOST RECENT TSB CONSIDERATION GOA ACTIONS, AND PHELAN WILL CABLE YOU WITH ANY ADDITIONAL INFO HE BELIEVES WOULD BE USEFUL TO YOU IN YOUR TALKS. INGERSOLL

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